

Volunteer of the Year: JW Lehman Community Service Award, Ms. Helen Linn Conway.

Business of the Year: Delta Pest Control, Bill and Doris Lawrence.

Educator of the Year: Ms. Yogi Denton, McGehee High School.

Desha County Farm Family: Norris and Jamie Sims.

Mr. President, we should all embrace the spirit of service and volunteerism on display by these deserving individuals. I send my heartfelt congratulations to the entire McGehee community.●

ST. JOHN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a historic church in Omaha, NE, which celebrated its 145th anniversary on November 13, 2010. St. John African Methodist Episcopal—A.M.E.—Church was founded in 1865 and continues to host a thriving congregation in north Omaha's minority community.

The current church structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, having been designed by Clarence W. Wigington, who grew up in Omaha, becoming Nebraska's first African-American architect. He later went on to become the first municipal African-American architect in the United States.

St. John A.M.E. Church was organized at the end of the Civil War, 2 years before Nebraska became a State. This institution endured challenging times of racial bigotry and hatred, which were unfortunately widespread across America at the time. Maintaining the church's presence required the strength, courage, and faith of early African-American leaders.

Today, St. John A.M.E. Church remains a focal point in Omaha, NE; as the congregation continues a 145-year tradition of ministering to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional and environmental needs of the north Omaha community.●

TRIBUTE TO BETTY RIVES ALLEN CALLAWAY

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my good friend, Betty Rives Allen Callaway, whom I have known for many years.

Betty was born January 17, 1928, in Selma, AL, to Carolyn Young and Vickers Rives Allen. Raised in Old Town, Betty attended Byrd Elementary School, Selma Junior High School, and later, Albert G. Parrish High School. As a young woman in Selma, Betty quickly became a fixture in the community by donating her time and energy to various civic causes.

In 1943, while Betty was a student at Selma Junior High School, the United States was in the midst of World War II. In towns across America, civilians were mobilizing scrap drives to collect

metal for war material. Betty, taking an active role in Selma's drive, secured the gift of the old Cahaba Bridge from Dallas County, a locomotive and track from the local railroad, and old buses from Clarence Agee Bus Company.

Her success in the scrap metal drive earned her the privilege of being selected to travel to Mobile to christen the *William C. Gorgas*, a Liberty Ship named by the students at Selma Junior High School. The trip was memorable for Betty, as she once recalled christening the ship, "[E]xcept it took me more than once to smash the bottle of champagne."

Following her graduation from Albert G. Parrish High School, Betty embarked on her professional career. Her penchant for business and sense of style quickly earned her a position in Louise Martindale's dress shop. As a self-described "conscientious mother and housewife," Betty proved to be more than capable of balancing her home and her work. While raising her three sons, Johnny, Vick, and Jimmy, Betty also worked as a receptionist in several local offices and businesses, and later served as the social editor at the Selma Times-Journal.

In 1970, Betty began her career as an aide to some of Alabama's political figures, including U.S. Representatives Bill Nichols, Walter Flowers, and Earl Hilliard. Betty also served with distinction for 8 years in my office during my time in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a member of my staff, Betty helped countless Alabamians navigate Federal bureaucracy, many times going above and beyond her call of duty.

Betty's service to her community extended far beyond her duties as a legislative aide. As an expert on Selma history, Betty was instrumental in the effort to restore Cahawba, Alabama's first capital. She also worked to revitalize Selma's Water Avenue, one of the Nation's most historic riverfront streets. A true civic leader, Betty served on the Alabama Sheriffs' Boys Ranch Advisory Committee and as a member of the board of directors of the Selma-Dallas County United Way. She was also the first woman named to the Selma-Dallas County Chamber of Commerce's board of directors.

In 1997, Betty moved from Selma to Point Clear. However, in May, her lifelong friends from Selma were glad to see her return home to live. Today, Betty enjoys spending time with her son, Johnny, and daughter-in-law, Teresa, as well as with her six grandchildren, Caroline, Allen, Ben, Michael, Rachel Holt, and Clare.

I wish Betty much luck on the next phase of her life, and I ask this entire Senate to join me in recognizing and honoring the life and career of my good friend Betty Callaway.●

REMEMBERING ELISEO "CHEO" LOPEZ

● Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, for many of those who expe-

rienced it, the Bataan Death March marked the end of lives that made up in courage what they lacked in length. For Eliseo "Cheo" Lopez a native of Springer, NM, this atrocity was only the beginning of a life lived to the fullest. That life ended on November 11 after 92 years. Fittingly, November 11 is Veterans Day, a day where our Nation pauses to honor and remember the veterans who sacrificed so much to keep our country safe.

The brave Americans who fought at Bataan were heroes in a story that was central to the broader story of Allied victory in World War II. It is a story too few Americans know. The soldiers who fought at Bataan helped slow the Japanese advance at the beginning of the war in Asia, which would eventually give Allied troops the time to reorganize and reverse Japan's progress. Thanks to the heroism of these troops, America was able to recover from Pearl Harbor and take the fight to the Axis powers in Asia and the Pacific Islands, leading to V-J day in 1945.

When the troops in Bataan were finally forced to surrender, they faced inhumane conditions and atrocities at the hands of their captors. By the time they were rescued, toward the end of the war, half of New Mexico's 1,800 soldiers had died. Another 300 would die within a year of returning to the U.S. as a result of complications related to their captivity. Mr. Lopez was forced to work in copper mines as a slave laborer and spent time in several Japanese prison camps until he was rescued in September 1945 nearly 3½ years after he was captured. He was part of a brotherhood of troops belonging to the 515th Coast Artillery Unit, of whom only 69 are known to still be living. The 515th, and all who fought in Bataan, played a crucial role in our country's history, showing valor that I believe is deserving of a Congressional Gold Medal.

When he returned to New Mexico, Mr. Lopez went to work for a bank in his hometown of Springer. He later left the bank for a job with a manufacturing company in California, where he worked for more than 30 years. In 2003, Mr. Lopez was recognized as Alabama Ex-POW Veteran of the Year by the National Veterans Day Organization of Birmingham, AL.

Mr. Lopez leaves behind his wife Katherine Young, who was raised in Las Vegas, NM, along with two daughters, two grandchildren, a brother, and two sisters. He will be buried with full military honors this week at Santa Fe National Cemetery.

Today, the town of Springer and all of New Mexico mourn a dear friend and America marks the passing of a true hero. I wish to honor Mr. Lopez's memory. It will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to